

CRIME IN SOUTH CAROLINA, 2014 & 2015

Executive Summary

The South Carolina Incident-Based Reporting System (SCIBRS) collects in-depth information on criminal incidents from local law enforcement agencies throughout the state. These reporting agencies submit monthly files with coded information on each criminal incident that occurs within their jurisdictions. These data are validated, corrected as needed and stored at SLED.

From 2013 to 2014, the rate of Violent Crime (i.e., the number of violent crimes reported for every 10,000 residents) decreased 2 percent, while the rate of Property Crime decreased by 5.2 percent, largely driven by a steep decline in reported burglaries. The rate of domestic assaults decreased by 1.1 percent from 2013 to 2014. The number of law enforcement officers assaulted also decreased in the same time period by 29.7 percent.

From 2014 to 2015, the rate of Violent Crime decreased by 0.4 percent, despite more violent crimes being reported. While there was an increase in crimes reported in this category, because of an even larger increase in the state's population, the number of violent crimes committed for every 10,000 people in 2015 actually decreased from the previous year. In this same time period, the rate of Property Crime continued to decrease by 4.6 percent, again led by another decline in reported burglaries. The rate of domestic assaults decreased by 2 percent from the previous year. The number of law enforcement officers assaulted increased by 22.4 percent from 2014 to 2015.

The SCIBRS unit at SLED compiles the collected information from the state's local law enforcement agencies to create the *Crime in South Carolina* report. Beginning with the 2013 edition, *Crime in South Carolina* has featured exclusively Incident-Based Reporting to count crimes so that every crime that is reported by local agencies is included in the crime totals. This differs from the FBI-produced *Crime in the United States* which only counts the single most serious offense in an incident. *Crime in South Carolina* also includes updates and corrections reported by local agencies after the FBI's publication cutoff in early-Spring.